

Southern Regional Education Board

The State Leadership Academy Network Benchmarks, Goals and Services

The goal of the State Leadership Academy Network is to help states design academy programs for networks of school leadership teams. These leadership teams will work together to apply research-based knowledge to improve curriculum and instructional practices.

School teams trained through these programs will learn how to:

- support rigorous academic standards and instructional methods that motivate and engage students;
- make meaningful connections between the abstract aspects of the curriculum and real-world learning experiences;
- create and manage a system of support that enables all students to meet high standards and motivate faculty to have high expectations of all students;
- set priorities for change that can be measured and managed realistically;
- create a personal, caring school environment that helps students meet higher standards;
- apply research knowledge to improve school practices; and
- use technology for management and instructional purposes.

Over the next three years, the State Leadership Academy Network will work with SREB to design and develop curriculum modules through which leadership teams will apply research-based knowledge and processes to real-world problems.

They will help school districts identify potential leaders who have demonstrated leadership ability, who have knowledge of curriculum and instruction and who have proven records of high performance.

The Academy Network will recruit instructors to teach and coach the participating school teams. These instructors will know what it takes to transform low-performing schools and will be able to help schools apply research-based knowledge to improve school and classroom practices.

The Network will work with universities or state agencies to offer Academy-based leadership programs that count toward professional leadership certification and/or renewal.

Members of the Network also will conduct school-based research to determine each Academy program's effectiveness in producing capable school leaders.

The Academy Network will work with networks of school-site leadership development teams. These networks will share information and will learn from each other.

Southern Regional Education Board

An advisory board created by the Academy Network will meet frequently. Members of this board will include state educational leaders involved in comprehensive school improvement, business leaders and successful leaders of schools and school systems that have made significant gains in student achievement.

The Academy Network should make a special effort to enroll teams from schools that have been identified by the state as low-performing schools. Each school team should include current school leaders, future leaders, teacher leaders and at least one representative of the district office.